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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,556	03/21/2001	Eiichi Ito	108863	2650
25944	7590	09/28/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			AIRAPETIAN, MILA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3625	

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/812,556

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Mila Airapetian

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06/13/2005.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13,16 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 13,16 and 18-21 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/13/2005 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

Amendment received on 06/13/2005 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17, have been canceled. 13, 16, 19, 20 have been amended. Claims 13-21 are currently pending in the application.

### ***Drawings***

The replacement drawings to Fig. 21 submitted on June 01, 2004 are approved.

The replacement drawings to Fig. 1 submitted on December 29, 2003 are approved.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent

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granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**Claims 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cannon et al. (US 5,748,484).**

**Regarding claim 13,** Cannon et.al. teaches a method for printing social expression cards in response to electronically transmitted orders comprising:

receiving, by wireless communication, electronic personalized product producing data in a first format and customer identification information (col.16, line 16-17; col. 5, lines 59-60; col. 20, line 28 – term “subscriber” indicated stored customer id);

electronically sequentially storing sets of the personalized product producing data and the customer identification information, each set including a piece of personalized product producing data and a piece of customer identification information (col. 5, lines 19-20; col. 18, lines 30-32; col. 16, line 46-50; col. 20, line 28 – term “subscriber” indicated stored customer id);

electronically analyzing each piece of electronic personalized product producing data in the first format and converting it to a piece of electronic data in a second format (col. 17, lines 48-51);

receiving the piece of data in the second format and recording the piece of data in the second format on an output medium to produce a personalized product (col. 17, lines 8-11);

producing the personalized product (col. 19, line 7);

automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested (col. 17, lines 62-67) wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the

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personalized product will occur (col. 18, lines 40-49, specific zip code indicates "limited" defined geographic area; col. 18, lines 50-51) .

**Regarding claim 16**, Cannon further teaches providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers, said method further comprising the step of delivering the personalized product produced to a location within the limited, defined geographic area or facility designated by each piece of customer identification information (col. 18, lines 50-51; col. 18, lines 40-42, specific zip code indicates "limited" defined geographic area).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. in view of Cockrill et al (US 20030208442).**

Cannon teaches all the limitations of claim 18 including storing the produced personalized product in association with the customer information (col.5, lines 19-20; col. 18, lines 30-32; col. 20, line 28 – term "subscriber" indicated stored customer information); and

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providing the stored personalized product associated with the customer information to each of the customers (col. 18, lines 50-51).

However Cannon does not teach authenticating each of the customers based on the customer information; and upon confirmation of authenticity of each of the customers.

Cockrill teaches electronic commerce using a transaction network wherein the network authenticates the customer based on information provided by the customer.

It would have been obvious having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon to include authenticating each of the customers based on the customer information, as disclosed in Cockrill (Abstract, [0013]), because it would allow only authorized users to access the system, thereby enhancing security of the system.

**Claims 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. and Cockrill et al (US 20030208442), as applied to claim 18, and further in view of Brackett et al. (US 6519632).**

**Regarding claim 19,** Combination Cannon and Cockrill teaches all the limitations of claim 19 including at least the producing and the storing are paired in each of a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, each piece of e-mail received from each of the customers contains information about the personalized product device's location, designated by each of the customers (col. 19, line 7; col. 5, lines 19-20; col. 18, lines 30-32).

However Cannon and Cockrill does not teach analyzing the data about the personalized product producing device's location, and transferring the image data to the personalized product producing device installed in a designated producing location, the personalized product producing device at the designated location producing the requested personalized product, and a storage device installed in the designated personalized product producing device, storing the produced personalized product.

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Brackett et al. teaches a method for configuring imaging system to communicate with multiple remote devices wherein the image can be stored and transferred to a remote devices (e.g., printers), (Abstract, col. 5, lines 33-35, col. 9, lines 40-43).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon and Cockrill to include analyzing the data about the personalized product producing device's location, and transferring the image data to the personalized product producing device installed in a designated producing location, the personalized product producing device at the designated location producing the requested personalized product, and a storage device installed in the designated personalized product producing device, storing the produced personalized product, as disclosed in Brackett, because it would advantageously allow product orders to be sent to the most convenient location for the customer.

**Claims 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. in view of Bellin (US 6683526).**

**Regarding claim 20**, Cannon teaches all the limitations of claim 20 except that a personalized product producing system is installed in a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, and a receiver for receiving the wireless communication is installed in each of the plurality of locations and is allowed to receive only wireless communications transmitted from the customers within an area associated with each location of the plurality of locations.

Bellin teaches a pager-based communication system comprising a method of communicating location specific messages from a plurality of remote locations to another location, and transmitting the location specific message via the wireless transmitter to a wireless receiver (Abstract, col. 3, lines 14-25).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to modify Cannon to include that that a personalized product producing system is installed in a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, and a receiver for receiving the wireless communication is installed in each of the plurality of locations

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and is allowed to receive only wireless communications transmitted from the customers within an area associated with each location of the plurality of locations, as disclosed in Bellin, because a wireless network advantageously allows communication with a transceiver without the need for cumbersome wires.

**Claims 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. in view of Gindlesperger (US 6,397,197).**

**Regarding claim 21**, Cannon teaches all the limitations of claim 21 except calculating upon receipt of each wireless communication, a number of wireless communications already received and operation condition of a personalized product producing device, and estimated time of completion of the requested personalized product; and automatically returning a wireless communication including the estimated time of completion to each of the customers.

Gindlesperger teaches a method for creating a database representing print and other customized information product vendor pools for subscribing buyers wherein the printer reviews requirements contained in the order and provides an estimated price to the buyer (customer) (col. 2, lines 1-8).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon to include calculating upon receipt of each wireless communication, a number of wireless communications already received and operation condition of a personalized product producing device, and estimated time of completion of the requested personalized product; and automatically returning a wireless communication including the estimated time of completion to each of the customers, as disclosed in Gindlesperger, because having information about an expected time of completion of products would advantageously allow customers to make arrangements for delivery of those products.



***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) 6,721,713 to Guheen et al. discloses a system and a method for communicating purchase information to the customer, processing the customer's purchase order and storing the customer order in a database.

(ii) 6,594,642 to Lemchen discloses an automated process and a system for ordering and manufacturing personalized products over the Internet.

(iii) 6,842,533 to Patton et al. discloses a method and a system for customizing and ordering an official postal product.

(iv) 6,704,120 to Leone III et al. discloses an apparatus for creation and printing of a personalized print product.

(v) JP 408212310 to Audren discloses a method for customizing cards.

(vi) Houston Chronicle, Nov. 6, 1999, pg.6, Martha Steward discloses different ways of personalizing stationery.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mila Airapetian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on (571) 272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Mila Airapetian  
Examiner

MA



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner